

13 February 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Zbigniew Brzezinski
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: Indian Ocean Zone of Peace

REFERENCE: Memorandum from [redacted]
dtd 11 February 1980, Same Subject

25X1

Referenced memorandum requests my comments on Cy's memorandum to the President recommending that we join in the UN Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, which is charged with preparing for a UN conference in 1981 on the zone of peace in the Indian Ocean. I believe it would be a serious mistake to join in this committee at this time. There are two reasons behind this view:

a. We are, in the wake of the Afghanistan situation, attempting to establish US "facilities" in the Indian Ocean area. Many nations who are applauding our firm stance in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan are seriously questioning whether we are likely to remain constant in our position of resistance to Soviet moves and pressures in the area. If at the same time we seek new facilities in the area we also agree to join in deliberations intended to remove all US (and Soviet) military presence from the area, many nations will conclude that we have no intention of staying around to support them.

b. On top of this, it would be foolishly hypocritical to enter into discussions pointed towards the removal of US military forces from this area. The United States has vital national interests in the Indian Ocean area. As a matter of principle, we should never be incapable of bringing adequate military force to bear in an area of vital national concern. We may or may not need military forces in such an area at any given time, but we simply must be able to bring such force to bear when the occasion requires it. [redacted]

25X1

STANSFIELD TURNER

25X1

*DCI passed this memo
to Dr. Brzezinski at his
meeting 11.2.80*